

House Bill 739

By: Representative Powell of the 32nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 expense allowance and travel cost reimbursement for members of certain boards and
3 commissions, so as to provide that expense allowances are authorized only if the member of
4 the board or commission is physically present at the meeting of the board or commission; to
5 amend Code Section 50-1-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings
6 by teleconference or other similar means, so as to provide that members of boards, bodies,
7 committees, or commissions of state government that participate in meeting by
8 teleconference or other similar means and are not physically present at the meeting of the
9 board, body, committee, or commission shall not be entitled to expense allowances for such
10 meeting; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to expense
14 allowance and travel cost reimbursement for members of certain boards and commissions,
15 is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

16 "(c) A member of a board, committee, commission, or other body subject to this Code
17 section who does not physically attend the meeting of the board, committee, commission,
18 or other body but participates in such meeting by telephone conference call, two-way
19 interactive closed circuit television or satellite television signal, or any other similar
20 method which allows each member of the board or body participating in the meeting to
21 hear and speak to each other member participating in the meeting shall not be eligible to
22 receive any expense allowance under this Code section. Expense allowances under this
23 Code section shall be allowed only for members who are physically present at meetings of
24 their respective boards, committees, commissions, or other bodies subject to this Code
25 section."

SECTION 2.

Code Section 50-1-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings by teleconference or other similar means, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

"(d) A member of a board, body, committee, or commission who does not physically attend the meeting of the board, body, committee, or commission but participates in such meeting by telephone conference call, two-way interactive closed circuit television or satellite television signal, or any other similar method pursuant to this Code section shall not be eligible to receive an expense allowance or per diem for such meeting. Expense allowances and per diem shall be allowed only for members who are physically present at meetings of their respective boards, bodies, committees, or commissions."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.